



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
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July 5, 2001

TO: Members of the Washington State Board of Health

FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Senior Health Policy Manager

RE: Future additions and supplemental material for Priorities Report

Background and Summary

At the June 13 meeting, I presented the draft staff report on research that could inform the Board's work on setting new priorities. At that time, I reported that staff members would be pulling together additional information prior to the July 10 and 11 meeting. That information was to include more information on Laurie Garrett's suggestions about Board priorities; results of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice's review of the "survey of surveys" section; and additional information about planned projects of other entities that might overlap with the Board's priorities.

An annotated report on Laurie Garrett's responses is attached, as is a letter from the NWCPHP stating that its reviewers found the survey of surveys to be complete and accurate.

The remainder of this memo lists research and policy initiatives related to the Board's statutory authority, its recent priorities, its lists of issues to monitor, or its short list of possible future priorities. Projects were identified through a review of the 2001-03 state biennial operating budget and through supplemental interviews. A memo from Patty Hayes detailing DOH activities is also attached.

One budget proviso is of particular note: The budget requires the State Board of Health to "convene a broadly-based task force to review the available information on the potential risks and benefits to public and personal health and safety, and to individual privacy, of emerging technologies involving human deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)." The budget provides an additional \$15,000 for this purpose.

Information in this memo and accompanying materials will be incorporated into the text of future versions of the Priorities Report, as well as any documents derived from it.

Selected Projects of Other Organizations

Board of Health

- \$15,000 to convene task force to review risks and benefits of emerging DNA technologies

Office of Financial Management

- \$1.1 million Health Resources and Services Administration grant on Access to Health Care Planning (RFP awarded to HPAP)

Department of Ecology

- \$800,000 to implement persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemical strategy (\$54,000 to DOH for support)

Department of Health

- \$5.8 million on 01-02 and \$4.7 million in 02-03 to purchase and distribute pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.
- \$533,000 in 01-02 and \$1,067,000 in 02-03 for performance-based contracts with local jurisdictions to assure safety of “group B” water systems

Department of Social and Health Services

- “department shall increase its efforts to restrain the growth of health care costs”; target is a 3 percent reduction in costs to general fund-state.

Health Care Authority

- study and report on costs incurred by U.S. Health Benefits Board as a result of implementing mental health parity for federal employees

Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Evergreen)

- \$150,000 (\$75,000 per year) to “research and evaluate strategies for constraining the growth of in state health expenditures.”
- \$65,000 to conduct outcomes study pursuant to drug-affected infants.

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

- \$140,000 for study of children’s mental health programs, including a review of plans and services for early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT)
- Review all aspects of mental health prevalence study.

University of Washington

- \$50,000 for the School of Medicine to “conduct a survey designed to evaluate characteristics, factors, and probable causes for the high incidence of multiple sclerosis cases in Washington state.” (work could involve genetic screening of neonatal blood samples)

UW Health Policy Analysis Program

- \$852,829 awarded for bulk of analysis on OFM HRSA grant
- Evaluation of Kids.Health.2001 (Medicaid/CHIP outreach) for Washington Health Foundation
- Research component of DOH’s study committee review of AIDS Omnibus Act

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Washington Health Foundation

- Recently launched new “Health Disparities and Organizational Change” grant program to “assist health care organizations in becoming more culturally competent as providers, leaders and participants in their communities”

Group Health Community Foundation

- In 2000, refocused grant making on (1) improving the health of children and adolescents and (2) promoting cultural diversity within health care.